THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 23rd February 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Deputy President (Sri K. VENKATA-SWAMI NAYUDU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Immigration to Burma and Ceylon.

*11 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the proposed talks between the Government of India and the Governments of Burma and Ceylon in respect of future immigration to Burma and Ceylon;

(*b*) whether the Government have been apprised of the points at issue which will be discussed between these Governments;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether trade relations have been included within the scope of the talks;

(*d*) whether in view of the fact that Madras is vitally concerned in regard to immigration and trade with Burma and Ceylon, the Government have represented that adequate representation should be provided for Madras in any delegation appointed for the purpose; and

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to make a statement on the subject?

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Public Works) :—" The subject-matter is one falling within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government who should be addressed in the matter. The Government have no statement to make."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister justified in referring me to the Dominion Government where the nationals of this Province are concerned? Is it not the duty of this Government to represent to the Dominion Government so far as the interests of the nationals of this Province are concerned?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" This Government have a duty by the people of this Province. But the subject-matter of this question is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government and information has to be sought there."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have introduced a resolution in the other House touching the subject-matter of this question?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I cannot say that now."